

u3a  
Dacorum

# The Diarist

Autumn 2024

Edition 121

Northern Lights in Kings Avenue Hemel Hempstead.  
John Larkin, Photography Club

## u3a Dacorum Digest

To become a member, join u3a Dacorum or renew your membership:

**Online:** Use this link to access renewing or joining instructions or scan the QR codes opposite:

<https://u3adacorum.org/2024-membership/>

**By post:** Request a membership form to be sent by post from the Membership Secretary (details on last page).



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**PRESIDENT: The Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum**

**Registered Charity 1012612.**

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### **Future Committee meeting dates in 2024**

Tuesday 2 October  
Tuesday 5 November  
Tuesday 3 December

**Venue:** Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead. Members are always welcome to attend either in person or on Zoom. Please let the Secretary know in advance.

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## Chair's Report

I am delighted to have been elected to the role of Chair of our u3a and am looking forward to visiting as many groups as possible over the next few months, to meet more of our members and to experience the wide range of interests covered by our groups. I have been a u3a member since 2019, but I am a fairly new member of the Committee and still have a lot to learn!

At the AGM on 3 August seven Trustees were elected, including our newest Trustee John Coe, and we are all keen to keep our u3a working for the benefit of all our members. However, while the Trustees are supported by a small team of experienced Committee members, we are still in need of more volunteers. Indeed, several members of the Committee have taken on more than one role to keep our u3a running. There are many tasks, both large and small, going on behind the scenes to keep our u3a working, with plenty of opportunities for new volunteers to get involved. So, if you fancy helping out or shadowing one of the Committee to see what is involved, please get in touch with me or another member of the Committee to learn more.

We are all grateful to the many group leaders who give their time to keep their groups running and, as was mentioned at the AGM, we are aware that the issue of collecting and dealing with the cash at group meetings can be an onerous task. As a Committee, we will be considering how we can reduce this burden going forward. Unfortunately, there is unlikely to be one easy solution that works for everyone, but rest assured we will be consulting with group leaders and members and looking to other u3as for their best practices, before coming to any conclusions. If you have any views or ideas on this issue, please email me or have a chat at a monthly meeting.

As we move into Autumn and group meetings resume after an August break, I hope you enjoy your regular group meetings and after reading the reports in this Digest you might like to consider trying a few new ones.

*Carolyn Wallis*

## Treasurer's Report

It is good to be officially in post after the AGM election, thank you. Many thanks to Peter Marshall for acting as treasurer for the past 3 years and for his handover to me, which is just about complete.

For those who don't know me, I am a chartered accountant and spent most of my career in audit, risk and information security. I currently sit on the Third Age Trust Finance committee, which provides governance to the TAT board of trustees on various aspects of finance. I think that this role and the treasurer role complement and support each other.

I think I am now largely on top of the various aspects of the role and am working out how I can best help the committee to understand our financial position

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and the various levers available to us. As Peter said at the AGM we have done a number of things over the last 2-3 years to reduce our reserves from the level they rose to over Covid, down to what we consider we need to manage our u3a in more normal times. These included the group meeting fee holiday and reduced annual membership rate. Our challenge now is to manage a "soft landing" as we transition from a deficit this year to break even next year. We need to see how we are doing at the finance half-year (September) to check that we are on track, and to plan for next year. If any group coordinator needs any information about hall fees or anything else to do with finance please get in touch via the [treasurer@u3adacorum.org](mailto:treasurer@u3adacorum.org) email.

As the chair says in her report, we are looking at how we can make it easier to collect cash for meetings. If there are any other aspects relating to u3a finance that you think can be simplified – or if you have any questions about them – please contact me via the above email, or face to face at the monthly meeting or any of the group meetings I go to.

*Henry Wallis*

## Secretary's Report

Another AGM has taken place and a report is included in the Digest. I remain Secretary, but this will be my third year and so I must stand down at the next AGM. Rather like a Treasurer, it is hard to run any organisation without a Secretary. The role of Secretary means I ensure meetings happen with decisions recorded and I liaise with external bodies such as Third Age Trust. I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking over next year. I have notes on what needs to be done and when and how to do it, to make it easier for my successor. In an ideal world, it might be helpful to have someone support or shadow me. It is interesting work and has helped me keep some of my work skills up to date and the Committee meetings are stimulating and well-paced and so keep to time.

In my role as Secretary, I have been greatly helped by Lorna Grimes, who as minute secretary, has prepared the minutes of the meetings. However, after 15 years, Lorna would like to step down. The role of minutes secretary could be shared between two or three people on a rota, so that it is not too onerous. There are monthly Committee meetings and the AGM. We keep the minutes as simple and focused as possible.

If you are interested in either role, then please get in touch with me.

*Ellen Duffy, [secretary@u3adacorum.org](mailto:secretary@u3adacorum.org)*

## Vice Chair's Report

Summer finally arrived and like many members I have enjoyed some outdoor activities with my groups. Along with several other Trustees I attended the Leverstock Green Fete in July. This a great way to talk to members of the public about u3a and what we do. We hope to attend other events during the year.

As a committee we have had a busy few months preparing for the AGM which was held in August. You voted in 7 trustees which is wonderful but a few more would spread the workload. As I explained at the AGM we need a Minutes Secretary urgently and at the next AGM our Secretary must stand down. Please contact one of us if you think you might be able to help or if you would like to attend a committee meeting as an observer before making a decision.

As autumn approaches I am looking ahead with excitement to resuming some of the hall groups that I attend – perhaps I will find something new this time – will you?

*Jane Campbell*

## Groups Secretary: Short Day Trips Appeal

As we have mentioned on several occasions during monthly meetings, we would like to restart the very popular and successful group **Short Day Trips**. The requirement is a volunteer to be the Coordinator. This does not need to be just one person, a team of people sharing the duties might be the answer. The previous Coordinator would be delighted to offer advice and assistance. There are members involved in other groups that arrange trips for the attendees of those special interest groups, and who may be prompted to lend a hand.

Should you be prepared to be involved in the organisation of Short Day Trips, please contact me and we can hopefully get going after the summer holidays.

*Louise (Lee) Pace*

## Annual General Meeting Report

The AGM was attended by more than 90 members in person and 10 more on-line and more than 150 members voted on-line and one by post. Thank you to those attending in person or voted. We have a new Committee, led by Carolyn Wallis as Chair, and a new Treasurer, Henry Wallis, and a new trustee, John Coe. Jane Campbell is continuing as Vice-Chair, and Ellen Duffy remains Secretary, while John Dodkins and Lee Pace continue as trustees, Digest Editor and Groups & Speakers Secretary respectively.

The motion to amend the Constitution was passed. This now means that ordinary trustees can hold post for more than three years, and build on their experience, although they can only serve as trustee for up to nine years. There is no effect on Officers (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), who can only hold the same post for up to three years and serve for no more than nine years in total as either an Officer or Trustee.

## Monthly Meetings

*Louise (Lee) Pace*

### 7 October 2024: Boxmoor Playhouse

**Mike Barbakoff: The Women of Bletchley Park**

This talk provides a view of the material contribution made by the women of Bletchley Park to its extraordinary success in code breaking and intelligence against the Axis powers in World War II. Women represented 70% of the Bletchley Park workforce of nearly 9,000. Consisting of civilians, WAAF, WRENS and ATS, the women of Bletchley Park undertook an extraordinary range of work from code breaking to operating the various technologies developed to tackle the challenges of the Government Code and Cypher School, both at home and abroad. The talk also covers their recruitment, off-duty activities and brings to the fore some of the famous names associated with Bletchley Park.

### 4 November 2024: Boxmoor Playhouse

**David Burnell: The Art of Underground Travel**

In 2023 David Burnell shared a most entertaining and informative presentation with us about the experiences of building and using the early steam powered underground trains. This current presentation is a fully illustrated view of the world-famous collection of the London Transport poster collection, illustrating many aspects of London's life and recent history. The talk sets the posters in the context of the high design standards achieved by the Underground in the inter-war period. A visit to the collection can be arranged in connection with the talk, depending on numbers.

### 2 December 2024: Boxmoor Playhouse

**Ukulele and Folk Singing Groups: Christmas Party**

Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with us! The Ukulele and Folk Singing Group will entertain us and the German Improvers Group will be providing mince pies. It will be a fitting end to a very successful year of Monthly Meetings.

### 6 January 2025: Boxmoor Playhouse

**Mike Hender: Introduction to AI**

Mike was born and bred in the West Country and started his career by doing research in laboratory astrophysics at UCL, and then Canadian and US postdocs, the latter with NASA in Pittsburgh. Back in the UK he spent the next 30 years in IT sales and marketing, winding up on the UK board of Compaq. On 'retiring' he spent 10 years consulting in the Government area.

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Mike will present an introduction to Artificial Intelligence including but not limited to:

- What is AI – Artificial Intelligence – and what are Chatbots? A very simple introduction
- Why is there so much fuss about it? Is it as revolutionary and/or life threatening as is made out?
- Where are we likely to meet it in our lives? How can we use it to our benefit? What should we be careful of?

### **5 March 2025: Northchurch Social Centre**

**(Note Different venue)**

**Paul Barwick: PC Yvonne Fletcher, The Libyan Embassy Siege**

We recall the 1984 murder of Yvonne Fletcher, a young Police Constable, killed by agents of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi as she policed a demonstration outside the Libyan Peoples Bureau. We examine the events leading up to that fateful day and the aftermath that reverberated around the world.

We salute the 40 year fight for justice by Yvonne's colleague who fulfilled a promise made to his dying friend to bring the killer to justice. Finally, we reference the role of our own Government, our secret services and highlight the real reason Yvonne became a victim of one of Britain's worst policing tragedies

## **Group Reports and Contributions**

### **Bus Trippers**

Whilst still being known as Bus Trippers we sometimes need to start our day by train as bus services in Hemel have become less reliable. So in June we met at the station to travel to West Brompton where we boarded a bus to Bishops Park Road. After a short refreshment stop we visited Fulham Palace and the adjoining walled garden before we strolled along the river to our return bus from Putney Bridge.

In July we used buses to travel to Oxford, having arrived in good time we waited for the gates of Balliol College to open. Once inside we explored the college before sitting in the gardens with our picnic lunch. After a quick look at the Ashmolean we decided to return in the colder weather to spend a day there.

This is a busy yet friendly group always ready to welcome new members. Details in the digest and online.

*Jane Campbell*

## **Music Miscellany 089**

We continue to be part of and sometimes even augment the Thursday morning music on offer at St Francis Church Hall, Boxmoor. With an increasing emphasis on the songs and instrumentals of the 50's onwards there is inevitably some nostalgia but, more importantly, lots of foot-tapping opportunities as we home in on the popular music that falls outside the Jazz and Classical sessions.

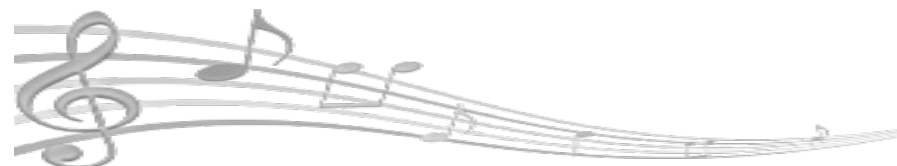


### **Coming up:**

- |        |                                                                              |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sep 26 | John: 'Better or Worse ... or just Different?'                               |
| Oct 24 | Mike: 'Have a Heart' & 'Remember, Remember, the 5 <sup>th</sup> of November' |
| Nov 21 | James: 'Concert for George'                                                  |
| Dec 19 | Our Christmas spectacular; lively festive music and refreshments!            |

To find out whatever this means just come and enjoy. A warm and friendly welcome waiting at any or all of our sessions (see Group listings).

*Bob Day*



## **Classical Music Appreciation [Group 035]**

We have planned a full programme of interesting and varied music for you to enjoy:

- |                        |                |                                              |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Sep 5 <sup>th</sup> :  | Robert Hoare   | What's going on here?                        |
| Sep 19 <sup>th</sup> : | Bob Day        | Fantasia 2000+ (Video)                       |
| Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> :  | Jack Scrutton  | Elgar's Dream of Gerontius                   |
| Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> : | Jack Scrutton  | Bring your own                               |
| Oct 31 <sup>st</sup> : | Ron Glatter    | French Impressions                           |
| Nov 14 <sup>th</sup> : | Sheila Cosford | The ABC of Baroque-Albinoni, Blow, Corelli   |
| Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> : | Sue Frost      | William Grant Still, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor |
| Dec 12 <sup>th</sup> : | Festive music  |                                              |



Please come along to any and all of our sessions. Newcomers are especially welcome, just turn up. We meet from 10 until 12 noon at St Francis Church Hall, Glenview Road, Hemel HP22 5FT.

*Jack Scrutton*

## 085 Armchair Travellers

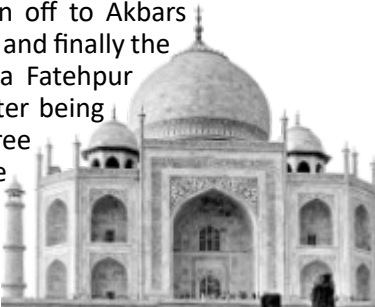
In June we travelled to Africa with a presentation on Namibia and Botswana by John and Sheila Cosford. The presentation was a summary of visits they had made in recent years. We started in Windhoek, 1700 meters above sea level. After a brief city tour we headed 300 miles south, one of many long drives, to Quiver Tree Forest, a giant playground of ancient trees and boulders. Next, a little further south, was Fish River Canyon, which features a gigantic ravine, in total about 160 km long, up to 27 km wide and in places almost 550 meters deep. It was then off to the coast to Luderitz, which lies on one of the least hospitable coasts in Africa and a visit to Kolmanskop, a ghost town, once a diamond mining settlement.

Our next stop was Namib-Naukluft National Park, a vast area of sand dunes, followed by Swakopmund and Wavis Bay, two coastal cities, next to each other. Then off to Damaraland and Twyfelfontein, a site of ancient rock engravings. Finally we visited Etosha National Park, one of the largest national parks in Africa to see a variety of animals including lions, giraffes, elephants, impala and antelope. It was then off to Botswana for more game drives.

We changed continents in July travelling to India with a presentation titled, "The Golden Triangle and Goa". Our first stop was Agra, where we visited the Taj Mahal both at sunset and sunrise. Then off to Akbars Tomb, the Tomb of I'timād-ud-Daulah or Baby Taj and finally the Agra Fort. Next, Ranthambore National Park via Fatehpur Sikri, an old city abandoned by its ruler soon after being built. During our visit to Ranthambore we had three game drives to seek out Bengal tigers, but came up empty handed save for a video of a cub taken through the bushes with an iPhone. Our next stop was Jaipur where we visited the Amber Fort, Jantar Mantar, with its giant sun dials, the city palace and museum and finally the sights and sounds of Jaipur itself.

Then off to Goa for some sun and relaxation; visiting Panaji, the capital, Meneses Briganza House, which was set in a time warp of about 100 years ago, Dudhsager Falls and finally a quest to find my travel companions' Indian roots. Our final destination was Delhi a 2.5 hour flight away. In Delhi we visited The Quib Complex, the India Gate and Red Fort, we then took a cycle ride to the Jama Masjid or Imperial Mosque and to round off a very interesting visit Ghandi's Tomb. Future presentations will include; Patagonia in Argentina, the West Coast of Africa, Miami and the Florida Keys, The Great Lakes, USA and finally Kerry and Cork, Ireland.

*John Clarke*



## Literature Group A

We meet every other Tuesday in pleasant surroundings at a private house in Berkhamsted. We read and discuss books deemed to be literature both traditional and modern. Some of the older books we will have read many years ago but on a second reading it is astonishing how much we missed the first time.



We have lately read 'Villette' by Charlotte Bronte and are currently reading 'Wide Sargasso Sea' by Jean Rhys, a very atmospheric book, next is 'The Homecoming' by Kate Morton, an epic story spanning many generations set in Australia.

Our meetings are relaxing, two hours in the arms of a good book, erudite companions plus coffee and biscuits what could be more delightful.

We would welcome new members at any time.

*Janet Goacher*

## Minutes Secretary Appeal

Currently I am the Minutes Secretary for the Dacorum u3a committee which meets once a month to report on the running of the u3a and to make decisions relating to that. My role is to record the discussions and decisions made at the meeting and produce a written record which is later posted on the website.

**I have been doing this role for well over 10 years now and have seen many committee members come and go, so I feel now is the time to retire. We are looking for someone to take over from me.**

I have enjoyed my time as minutes secretary very much, both for the insight into the workings of the u3a and for the companionship of the committee members. I am "old school" so take down what is said in writing (a bit of a scrawl sometimes!) but a younger person might be able to type directly onto a tablet. If someone is willing to take this on I would be happy to assist at the start. A computer/tablet with Word or similar would be needed.

This role is not an elected position so I am a Committee Associate, not a Member, and I do not vote on u3a motions.

**If you are interested please contact myself or anyone on the Committee.**

*Lorna Grimes*

## **Garden Trips and Tours**

Our group has continued to visit different gardens each month.

On 20<sup>th</sup> June Ann organised a trip to Close Cottage, Soulbury, nr Leighton Buzzard. This wonderful garden was full of an array of flowers and foliage that was ideal for cutting. Rachel, the owner, runs a business from here by growing and arranging seasonal flowers for events and weddings. The Boot pub at the bottom of the lane provided us with parking facilities and a delicious lunch. On 18<sup>th</sup> July Rita organised a trip to Cedar House in Wendover. Set in the Chiltern Hills it had a great variety of trees, shrubs and plants. A sloping lawn lead down to a natural swimming pond with wild flowers including native orchids around it. The beautiful green manicured lawn really put my own lawn to shame! Lunch that day was at The Shoulder of Mutton in Pound Street. For our next visit on August 15<sup>th</sup> we took advantage of a Masons coach trip to Coton Manor Gardens in Northampton. The landscaped gardens are on different levels sloping down from the house. A number of different gardens within the site offered much colour and variety. We also saw pigs, chickens and even flamingos! A lovely day out coordinated by Debbie.

We look forward to two more outings this year and I have already booked the venue for the group's Christmas lunch!

*Sue Croucher*

## **Leverstock Green Village Fete**

On Saturday 13 July, we ran a stall at the Leverstock Village Fete to publicise our u3a and encourage more members to join. The rain held off and by the time the fete opened the sun was coming through, encouraging a good turnout. We were lucky to have a position opposite the refreshment stalls so had plenty of passersby.

The Arts, Crafts and Skills group generously supplied a range of their projects for our display and Jane Campbell brought along examples from the Rug Makers group and was happy to demonstrate the techniques to interested viewers. With photographs from the Railway Group and Bus Trippers and posters from the Maths Group we were able to show off some of our wide range of interests.

Many of the visitors were already aware of our u3a through friends or neighbours but just needed encouragement to sign up themselves – good to know our members are talking about their groups and spreading the word, keep up the good work! Several new members have already joined as a result of seeing us at the fete and it was lovely that many of our existing members came to say hello during the afternoon.

*Carolyn Wallis*

## **Box Moor Trust Autumn Festival**

Following the success of our Leverstock Green event we have now booked a stall at the Box Moor Trust festival on Sunday 29 September to promote our u3a and to recruit some new members. Our stall will be in the marquee, safe from the weather, and will be open from 11am to 3pm. We are looking for volunteers to help man the stall – could you spare half an hour or so to join us to talk to passersby and sing the praises of our u3a? We are also asking Group Coordinators if you can lend us any craft projects or photographs of events that we can display on the stall to show the wide variety of interests that we cover?

If you can help, please contact me on [chair@u3adacorum.org](mailto:chair@u3adacorum.org) so I can arrange a rota for the day. The festival usually has plenty of interesting activities and wide range of refreshments so you can encourage the rest of the family to come and be entertained while you spend some time on our u3a stall.

*Carolyn Wallis*

## **News Group**

***A whirlwind of wit and wisdom at "NEWS GROUP/Have your say"***

Our recent gatherings have been nothing short of a delight, infused with erudition, entertainment and endless engagement. We were graced in July by the unsuccessful Tory Candidate Nigel Gardner who was the personification of endless wit and good humour and it was a pleasure to host him. In June in a burst of Parliamentary playfulness, our members divided into teams and played the part of Members of Parliament, putting forward their manifesto and agendas. The debates were lively as they were enlightening and entertaining, a testament to the vibrant intellectual spirit of our assembly. May was another month of merriment and mental gymnastics, Glynn Williams entertained us with his take on current affairs. A quiz was held which appeared successful. Plenty of people had their say and oodles of tea, coffee and delicious biscuits were consumed. The group took a break in August, as our Members of Parliament do. On September the 10<sup>th</sup>, Paul de Hoest of the Green Party will be coming to tell us all about life under a Green Agenda, after a dose of realism, our very own Glyn will give his take on Britishness and hopefully the group will respond.

Admission is only £3:00 which includes refreshments. The meetings start at 10am, If you wish to come, you will be more than welcome, all I ask is that you email me so that the correct number of chairs can be put out. Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month. We meet in the clubhouse of Berkhamsted Comrades Football Club, Broadwater, Berkhamsted, HP4 2AL, free parking.

*John Waller.*

## Science and Technology

Over the past few months, we have had three very interesting talks. Ray Wilkinson came in May from the University of Hertfordshire, for a talk of which the title was on how aeroplanes fly. In fact, it could have been better described as how I fly aeroplanes. He did tell us about all the controls in light aircraft but what kept us enthralled was the account of the flights he and fellow enthusiasts made in them. It really did seem as though they decided on a whim to fly to Le Touquet for a quick aperitif before dinner. That at least was the impression that I got at the end of this really exciting and beautiful presentation. I hope that we can persuade Ray to come back next year and give us a second installment.

In June, we welcomed back Prof. Haydon Bailey who has previously given us fascinating insights into what Hemel looked like millions of years ago and also how fossils can give us vital information about forensics. This time, he brought us up to date on the geology of the Chilterns. He said that enormous amounts of information had become available recently from investigations into local chalk quarries and from the exploration work made necessary by the construction of HS2. Our geology is effectively that of chalk and it was incredible how much difference there could be between the areas where this simple chemical compound, calcium carbonate, was deposited. We knew that chalk and limestone are the remnants of sea creatures that came from the seas that submerged us untold millions of years ago but the fact that chalk shows faults just like other much harder minerals was something of a surprise.

In July, David Bagon came from Radlett to tell us something about Sir Humphrey Davy, one of the greatest chemists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Davy came from a fairly modest background in Cornwall and finished as a baronet, President of the Royal Society and famous all over Europe. He discovered something like a dozen chemical elements and David listed his many other discoveries in chemistry. To the man in the street today he is known as the inventor of the coal miners' safety lamp that must have saved many lives over the years. I can add that the world-famous research labs. at the Royal Institution were named the Davy-Faraday laboratories to honour not only Davy but his other major discovery, his assistant the genius Michael Faraday.

We are regularly attracting very good attendance despite the lack of a tea break but there is plenty of room for more. You don't need a degree in science or engineering to be able to follow and be entertained by our speakers, so please feel welcome to come and join us.

*Norman Parkyns*

## Local History

Over recent months the group has been exploring the history and origins of the New Town. The current area of study is Marlowes.

Although many buildings have vanished, including some ancient public houses, the section near Midland Road remains. The history of various religious groups has also been on the agenda, with a look at the Jewish community. Jews Folk Singing Groups were present in Berkhamsted in the Norman era. After expulsion from England in 1290, they did not return until just prior to the Second World War, with a community also being established in Hemel Hempstead some months later.



**51 Marlowes, built in 1741. The finest surviving house in Marlowes. At one time home to the Cranstone family and later a furniture shop run by Hartridge and Roe.**

If you would like to discover more about the history of Dacorum then you are most welcome to join us. We have monthly hall meetings and in between these, short walks and visits to places of interest in the area that we are exploring. The winter term will see the group looking into people and places associated with the High Street area.

*Bernard Lamb*

## Table Tennis



**Winners left to right: Sue Jarvie, Christine Beasley (organiser) Mark Chapman**



**Runners up left to right: Gill Fountain, Christine Beasley (organiser) Diana Lai**

We were all delighted to be invited to take part in the inaugural mixed doubles tournament recently which was beautifully organised by Christine Beasley. It was a great success and enjoyed by all of the participants. We're keenly looking forward to the next one that Christine organises. Well done Christine.

**Mark Chapman**



### Calligraphy Group: Proverbs

## Exploring London

In June John Clarke lead us around Spitafields and the story of Industry and Immigration in London's East End.



In July Sue Woodhams led us around historic Battersea village and the 200 acre Victorian Park used as part of the 1951 Festival of Britain; finishing in the new Battersea Power Station complex.



In August Sue Miller used the futuristic Canada Water Library as our meeting point for exploring the Rotherhithe Peninsular. This award winning, iconic civic building in the form of an inverted pyramid opened in 2011.

**Concluding this year's walks:** The Custom House to Limehouse, exploring the Wapping area with Bernard Lamb in September, followed by Sands End with Tony Ford in October. In November it's Tottenham Court Road with Hilary Wood.

**Sue Miller**



**Bus Trippers Group at Fulham Palace**



**Nigel Gardner, Conservative candidate at the News Group after the general election.**  
(The St George flags are for England in the Euros, the National Front had not been invited to speak!)



**Garden Visiting Group: Barry's Garden**



**Garden Trips and Tours, Flamingos at Coton Manor**



**Railway Group at Bressingham Steam Museum**



**Garden Visiting Group: Kate's Garden**



**Sewing Bee Summer Picnic**



**The Dacorum u3a stall at the Leverstock Green fete**



**Garden Trips and Tours: Coton Manor Garden**

## Exploring Towns and Villages

In July we drove to Amersham Old Town.

Tim was our guide this month. He gave us much information to absorb plus plenty of time to explore and enjoy the multi-award winning memorial garden. The local cemetery revealed an acacia tree planted on the day of Churchill's funeral. Here are some of our members posing behind the foreground of wild flowers.

We discovered several patches of these blooms as we wandered around the village. A great day enjoyed by all.

*Laura Rouse*



## Italian Step 2

We changed our name from Italian Beginners to Italian Step 2 some time ago, because we're not beginners any more. Native speaker standard still eludes us, except for Tina of course, our much appreciated leader. We really enjoy trying though, even when making mistakes or letting the odd French or Spanish word slip in.

For the last session before our summer break, we ditched our books and made tagliatelle pasta. Tina led us in the adventure and gave us a master class in kneading the dough. Great fun was had by all and we took our efforts home to cook and eat with pride.

Perhaps we'll have a go at panettone for a Christmas treat!

Top Right: Ling's Pasta Dish,  
Bottom Left: Penny's Pasta Dish,  
Right: At the Pasta Cutting Machine



*Tina Leach and Val Broadhurst*

## Who says Maths is boring?

In the Maths Group, we try to keep it interesting. For example, take a look at the picture. Peter Hamson challenged us to find a way to work out the colour of our hats – without looking at them. And we almost succeeded! (Write in if you want the solution.)

It's not all about hats, of course. Over the last few months, we've brushed up our proper maths too – quadratic equations, calculus, Pascal's triangle, circular motion, and more.

And we venture into less familiar territory, like Diophantine equations – Fermat's Last Theorem being a famous example; and Game Theory, with the prisoner's dilemma – to be loyal or to betray?

Then there's the chance to pair up and tackle some teasing problems together. Sherlock Holmes and the case of the moving tree trunk, and Hannah's Sweets, to name but two.

Quizzes too, for every level of experience, but all with a maths theme.

For example, how were Julian, Dick and Anne, George and Timmy the dog better known?

So hopefully you can see that it's not all times-tables and yards-in-a-furlong. Whether you want to grow or refresh your maths skills to help your grandchildren, or give the grey cells a workout, why not come and give it a try? We're a friendly group with various levels of experience, and everyone can lead sessions or not, as they prefer. We meet at St John's Church Hall, Boxmoor, every third Monday of the month.

*Keith Holmes & Roger Witts.*

Contact: [group361@u3adacorum.org](mailto:group361@u3adacorum.org)

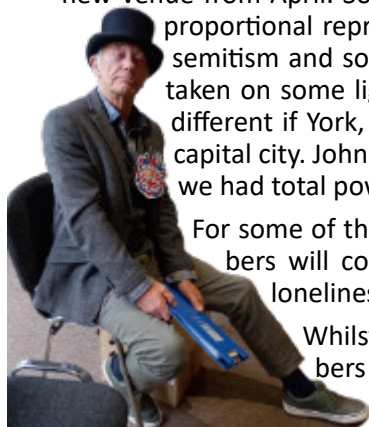


Spotted on a T-Shirt at the Leverstock Green Summer Fair:

$i 2^3 \sum \pi \dots$

## Discussion Group B

This group has settled in well at The Sacred Heart Hall, Berkhamsted our new venue from April. Some of the topics covered included culture wars, proportional representation, British Empire, climate change, anti-semitism and societal changes during our lifetime. We have also taken on some lighter topics, such as how things may have been different if York, rather than London, had been chosen to be the capital city. John Waller invited us to imagine what we would do if we had total power.



For some of the future topics (at the time of writing) the members will consider the impact on creativity of solitude and loneliness; assisted dying; and defence of the realm.

Whilst the group numbers are sufficient, not all members attend every month, so there is scope to add a few more.

Please contact Tim Thompson on 01442 262074 or [group090@u3adacorum.org](mailto:group090@u3adacorum.org) if you want to find out a bit more about us.

The picture shows John Thorpe leading the discussion on Proportional Representation. He put on his Monster Raving Loony badge and hat to give it a sense of occasion

*Tim Thompson*

## Folk Singing Group

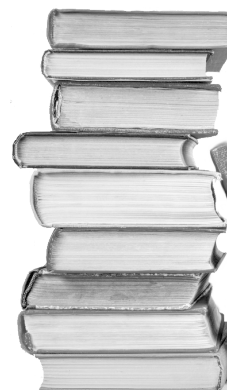


The Dacorum U3A Folk Singing Group began in May 2012. Since then, we've had many members including a few remaining originals. Quite early on, we began doing gigs in places like local care homes. I've attached a photo of our most recent gig at Lime Tree Manor in Hemel Hempstead. We meet in a large room at Adeyfield Free Church so new members are always welcome. Our details are contained in the group section of the Digest.

*Brian Jackson, Group Coordinator*

## Book Group

The Book Group would like to recruit one or two new members. At present we are a Home Group of six but holidays and illness have at times led to only three members for our monthly meeting. We read modern writers of any genre who have published in the last 50 years.



Recently we have read *Slow Horses* by Mick Herron which has been filmed by Apple. Also *Heaven and Hell* by Jon Kalman Stefansson an Icelandic writer who was recommended by an Icelandic Guide as giving readers an insight into the history and personality of Iceland. Our next book will be *the Redhead* by the side of the Road by the American author Anne Tyler.

The Group meets at 2pm on the third Thursday of the month and the next meeting will be on 19 September in Berkhamsted.

Please get in touch with me if interested via the U3A Dacorum web site.

*Barbara Plater*

## Railways

Our usual summer meetings are spent out and about visiting Railway related venues. This year a small group visited the HS2 construction site at Maple Cross (a larger group have places booked in September) where we were driven around in a minibus on a guided tour,



*Visiting The Luton Dart Link*

A larger group were invited to see the new Luton Dart link between Luton Airport Parkway and the airport. We were shown inside both the control room and the engine room as well as all the areas accessible to the public. Of course we were able to ride on the train which was told is electrically powered and is like an upside down cable car.

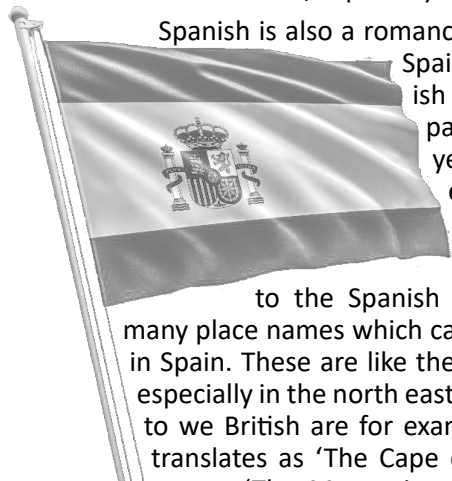
A group of eleven travelled by train to Norwich then, after four hours exploration, on to Beccles via Lowestoft. We spent 3 nights in Beccles and whilst there visited Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens and the East Anglian Transport Museum. We returned via Ipswich after a busy few days.

Our next hall meeting will be on 31 October, 10am to noon, at St Pauls Church Highfield. Look out for details in Group news.

*Jane Campbell*

## Influence of Arabic on Spanish language

I am fascinated by the etymology of languages. For instance, English originated as a Germanic or Teutonic language, think Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Danes, but was influenced by Latin. Even today the British legal system is replete with Latin phrases. The Romans ruled England for around 350 years and then after the Norman Conquest French, a romance language derived from Vulgar Latin, changed our language considerably and brought many words based on Latin, especially in the south of the country.



Spanish is also a romance language, after all the Romans were in Spain for over 700 years. However, the Spanish language was altered further by the occupation of Spain by the Moors for over 800 years and this occupation had a huge influence on the culture, food, customs in addition to the language.

The Moors contributed over 4000 words to the Spanish language. In addition, there are many, many place names which can be attributed to the Moors in evidence in Spain. These are like the Viking place names which can be found especially in the north east of England. Possibly of particular interest to we British are for example 'Capo de Trafalgar' which in Arabic translates as 'The Cape of the West', 'Gibraltar' which in Arabic means 'The Mountain of Tariq' (a fierce Moorish invader), and 'Benidorm'. The prefix 'Beni' means the son of someone or some place.

In addition to words, Spanish and Arabic have similarities in their grammar structure. Instances are the emphasis on personal and reflexive pronouns, word order and verb conjugation. I have read about these but honestly, I cannot say I understand the points of grammar. We must rely on the words of the experts!

In addition to vocabulary and grammar Spanish and Arabic share similarities in terms of pronunciation. Both languages rely on trills- rolling one's tongue on the letter 'R' as the Scots do. Another mutual instance of pronunciation is a deep throaty sound produced through vibration that does not exist in English but is possibly the same as in the Celtic languages of our islands.

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An example is 'jalapeño' in Spanish and 'Khalifa' in Arabic. A similar sound is used to pronounce 'lough/loch' in Ireland and Scotland and 'Llandudno' in Welsh. Pronunciation does differ in parts of Spain and in other parts of the world. Also, some words derived from Arabic are used commonly in some countries where in others the Latinate word holds precedence. For example, 'zumo' from the Arabic is the standard word for 'juice'. In Hispanic America 'jugo' or 'agua' the Latin derived words are common. 'Alberca' in Spain a term for agricultural water deposits is used in Mexico for a swimming pool instead of 'piscina' in Spain. There are so many other examples but space does not allow for them.

I hope I have generated some interest in the subject. There are hundreds of English words derived from Arabic which may be of interest. Unfortunately my interest does not help me to speak Spanish any more fluently but it may help me to add to my vocabulary.

*Faith Conninos, Spanish Group*

## The Youth Club of the Third Age?

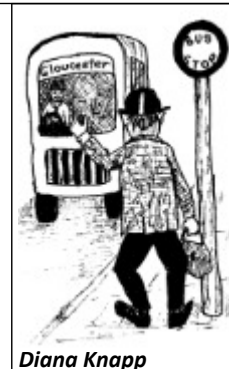
*Is this a first?*

I had an enquiry from someone wanting to join the Spanish group and she came today. A 21 year old student, taken aback, as indeed we were, to join a group of old retireds!

When does the third age begin? She couldn't remember how she had found the group. Anyway, I sent her off with various podcast websites to refresh her Spanish after spending a year in France.

The 21 year old attender didn't turn up for a second session. Now there's a surprise! However she did say she enjoyed it and it got her back into Spanish after doing her student year in France.

*Shirley King*



## Doctor Foster

*(or the advantage of not being 21)*

Doctor Foster went to Gloucester  
On a Railway Train  
He says he'll use his bus pass  
If he has to go again

The train fare cost him eighty pounds  
An awful lot to pay  
He'll go by bus for nothing  
Though it may take him all day

*Diana Knapp*

## Astronomy 190

*"When we look out into Space, we are looking into our own origins, because we are truly children of the stars."- Professor Brian Cox*

The u3a Astronomy group is a group of like-minded members who love to challenge themselves with the mysteries of our solar system and the wider universe. The exploration of outer space has become more than just "exploration" but a multibillion-dollar industry as private actors come on the scene. New, bigger and better land and space telescopes, robotic rovers on Mars and the Moon, complicated missions like that of returning samples from Mars, are all bringing us more detailed information and data than the scientists can analyse. But we are learning more every day with every discovery. As we search the Universe for life of some form, we must also ensure that humanity does not damage other celestial bodies as we have damaged our own planet.

Our mission leader, Roger, has retired after devoting 10 years to bringing us his knowledge and expertise and I've just taken over the reins. Thank you, Roger, for your commitment (and Angela's) over the years. Thanks also go out to the retiring Jean, who ensured we knew when to look up and what to expect to see in the night sky. Jean also ensured we had enough coffee, tea and biscuits – a very important matter. We wish you both well and hope you will continue to join us at our meetings whenever you can.

More about our group...

Everyone is welcome, no matter their astronomy knowledge. We aim for an animated discussion on various topics related to Astronomy, Cosmology, Astrophysics and Astrobiology to name just a few. Lately, we've looked at nuclear propulsion, space mining, international space treaties, hydrogen fusion in stars and supernovae. We encourage our members to participate and lead topics that hold special interest for them. Thanks go out to our members who have stepped up to this challenge, John and George. Thanks also to Margaret for agreeing to give us a night sky review for each month and for taking over Jean's role.

Our group meets on the second Thursday of the month (but not September 2024) from 2:00-4:00pm, at St. Marys and St. Josephs small hall behind the church on Horsecroft Road.

Do join us!

*Patricia Rowe - Coordinator*

## Industrial History

We have had a very interesting series of talks this quarter.

We started with Mike Stanyon's talk on the Swing riots, Whereas the Ludites were from the manufacturing trades the Swing rioters were agricultural workers. There was a discussion after Mike's excellent talk about why it didn't spread into our area. The general view was that the straw plaiting industry here had helped prevent the starvation that was the driving force in many areas. July attracted a large turnout to hear Wendy Austin talk about Port Sunlight entitled "a real soap opera". This not only gave a detailed explanation of the range of products but also addressed the industrial relations under Lord Levers and the development of the community. Our final talk in the quarter will be given by Tom Derbyshire when he will be talking about the history of sugar manufacturing.

The autumn session will open with Sally Harris picking up her experiences in the early days of the fast moving computer industry. Tom Gregory will be our speaker in October about one of his passions – the Brighton Run. He had better get it right as he will be talking part again, a few weeks later. The November talk will be by Arthur Cunningham on the development of steam power covering the developments of the machines as well as the key individuals who made it happen.



I find it very interesting to see how the group topics over the years have developed from a technology focus to embrace the social effects of these fast changing times. If you would like to join the group please email me [group024@u3adacorum.org](mailto:group024@u3adacorum.org) so we can include you in the events

*Arthur Cunningham*

## Sewing Bee

Our group decided to have a picnic in the local park in August instead of sewing! The weather was perfect and we found a large tree to sit under. The group was small as some members were on holidays etc.

Samples of projects sewn by members are a beautiful cotton dress fit for a little princess, 'Audrey' the teddy bear has a new outfit & a lovely cool cotton dress.



## **Garden Visiting Group: Two members' gardens**

This summer, we have had the pleasure of visiting two of our members' gardens, both in Hemel, and entirely different from each other.

**First, we were invited to Kate's garden;** after living there for forty years, she decided on a complete revamp. She engaged a professional garden designer, and began a process of conversation and testing out ideas with him.

Her garden had been a conventional square lawn, with borders around three sides. Kate felt that the design needed to take the garden on to the diagonal, and this has resulted in an imaginative space, with the borders arranged in a zig-zag around the main lawn, with flagstones across the lawn leading to a corner pergola with seating.

The planting is not entirely as the designer proposed, as Kate has added her own ideas; the colour scheme is in gentle pinks, mauves, and purples, with white under the shade tree to bring light into that area.

The overall effect of the diagonal design is to transform the space, providing numerous corners of interest. Kate says that the planting is not yet complete, but then, which garden ever is finished? Even now, it is a very pleasing and restful garden, with plenty of detail to catch the eye.

**A few weeks later, we visited Barry's garden,** situated hard against the railway line that runs through Hemel. A triangular plot on an incline, at first sight it would appear to offer quite a challenge to any gardener. Barry has made very good use of the slope, transforming what was a blank space into a garden of many levels, corners and spaces, each with its own seating and vistas.

The two themes throughout are, firstly, planting for wildlife, and secondly, the imaginative recycling of used materials – wood, stone, and troughs to create new furnishings for the garden. A pergola, perfectly situated for morning cups of coffee, is entirely made of old doors and windows, with benches similarly constructed. A garden shed, rescued from down the road, has been reinforced, and now features a ladder providing access to roof-top seating and a view across the town.

What was once the lawn has been allowed to grow into a meadow; wild-flowers now offer food for bees and butterflies, while feeders hang from branches for the local birds. The planting in the surrounding beds combines interesting shrubs and perennials, selected with an eye for leaf shape and colour; altogether a very personal garden, reflecting the passions of its creator.

*Continued on Page 29*

*Continued from Page 28*

Such different gardens! Our group usually enjoys a monthly visit to a garden, and they are always impressive in their way. But they are often quite established gardens, developed over years or even generations, and open to the public on occasion for charity. But this month, it was a real pleasure to visit these very different, small, private gardens created by two of our members with such flair and originality, and both truly inspiring.

*Lin Phillips, coordinator, Garden Visiting Group*

## **UKING EIGHT DAYS A WEEK**

*With apologies to Mr Lennon & Mr McCartney*

Ooh, we love our ukes, babe; guess you know it's true  
Hope you like our ukes, babe; we are sure you do  
Play it, strum it, Strum it, play it  
We'll just play our ukes babe, eight days a week.

Well you can play the uke babe, it's easy if you try  
It's just a ukulele but never ask us why  
We just play it, strum it, Strum it, play it  
We've always got our ukes babe, eight days a week

Eight days a week, we play-a-a -a -a them  
Eight days a week and sometimes even more

Play with u3a babe, yeah that's the thing to do  
And we always sing babe, yeah girls and fellers too  
Play it, strum it, Strum it, play it  
Got to bring our ukes babe, eight days week

Eight days a week, we play-a-a -a -a them  
Eight days a week and sometimes even more

If you love the ukulele, then join the u3a  
Come and play with us babe, skies are never grey  
Play it, strum it, Strum it, play it  
We ain't got nothing but ukes babe...

Eight days a week,  
Eight days a week,  
Eight days a week.

*John Forman, Ukulele Group*

## **Jack and Jill**

Jack and Jill  
Went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water  
Jack fell down  
And broke his crown  
But Jill was a reporter  
She took notes  
And photographed  
His sorry situation;  
Hired a good solicitor  
And sued for compensation

*Diana Knapp*

# Group Listings

If you wish to attend a group for the first time, or if anything is unclear, please contact the person listed to express your interest, to find out how it works, and whether there is space. This list is correct as of August 2024. Meeting days may change if bank holidays occur

|                                                                   |                         |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>085 Armchair Traveller</b>                                     | group085@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday<br>14:00 - 16:00                |
| <b>039 Art Club</b><br>Gadebridge Community Centre                | group039@u3adacorum.org | Alt Fridays<br>10:00 - 12:00                            |
| <b>223 Arts, Crafts, Skills</b><br>Kings Arms Berkhamsted         | group223@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday<br>10:00 - 12:00                 |
| <b>190 Astronomy Practical</b><br>St Mary & St Joseph Church Hall | group190@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday<br>14:00 - 16:00               |
| <b>360 Badminton</b><br>Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre            | group360@u3adacorum.org | Thursdays<br>10:00 - 12:00                              |
| <b>363 Book Group</b><br>Bridge Street Berkhamsted                | group363@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays<br>14:00 - 16:00              |
| <b>029 Book Reading HH</b><br>St Johns Church Small Hall          | group029@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Mon<br>10:00 - 12:00   |
| <b>183 Bus Trippers</b><br>Various Locations                      | group183@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed<br>Various Times                    |
| <b>007 Calligraphy</b><br>Leverstock Green Village Hall           | group007@u3adacorum.org | Mon 2 weekly<br>13:00 - 15:00                           |
| <b>048 Card Making A (HH)</b><br>Sundew Road                      | group048@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday<br>10:00 - 12:00                |
| <b>177 Card Making B (BK)</b><br>Open Door Berkhamsted            | group177@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday<br>13:30 - 15:30                 |
| <b>011 Circle Dance</b><br>Carey Baptist Church                   | group011@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues<br>11:00 - 12:30 |
| <b>080 Creative Writing B</b><br>Wrensfield                       | group080@u3adacorum.org | Thu 3 weekly,<br>14:00 - 16:00                          |
| <b>082 Creative Writing C</b><br>Gravel Lane, Boxmoor             | group082@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday<br>14:00 - 16:00               |
| <b>046 Cribbage and Scrabble</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre    | group046@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon<br>14:00 - 16:00  |
| <b>064 Cycling</b><br>Various Locations                           | group064@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday<br>10:00 Start                 |
| <b>090 Discussion B BK</b><br>Sacred Heart Berkhamsted            | group090@u3adacorum.org | 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday<br>14:10 - 16:30                |

|                                                                     |                         |                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>081 Exploring London</b><br>Various Locations                    | group081@u3adacorum.org | Last week of<br>Month                                    |
| <b>197 Exploring Towns, Villages</b><br>Visits by Car Share         | group197@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday<br>Various Times                |
| <b>073 Flower Arranging</b><br>Highfield Community Centre           | group073@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu, Not<br>July/August<br>14:00 - 16:00 |
| <b>159 Folk Singing</b><br>Adeyfield Free Church                    | group159@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br>10:00 - 12:00   |
| <b>202 French Book Club</b><br>Highclere Drive                      | group202@u3adacorum.org | Last Tue 2 -<br>monthly<br>15:00 - 17:00                 |
| <b>214 French Conv – Adv</b><br>Member's Home                       | group214@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues<br>10:15 - 12:00  |
| <b>018 Garden Visiting</b><br>Various Locations                     | group018@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wed, Mar<br>to Oct<br>14:00 Start        |
| <b>017 Garden Trips and Tours</b><br>Various Locations              | group017@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday<br>10:00 Start                  |
| <b>019 Genealogy A BK</b><br>Zoom                                   | group019@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday<br>14:00 - 16:00                  |
| <b>051 Genealogy B HH</b><br>St Pauls Highfield & Zoom              | group051@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday<br>10:00 - 12:00                  |
| <b>059 German Improvers</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall           | group059@u3adacorum.org | Mon 2 weekly<br>14:30 - 16:30                            |
| <b>024 Industrial History</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall         | group024@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday<br>10:00 - 12:00               |
| <b>095 Italian (Lang and Culture)</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall | group095@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Thur<br>10:00 - 12:00  |
| <b>092 Italian Conversation (Int)</b><br>Member's Home              | group092@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thurs<br>1430 - 16:30  |
| <b>156 Italian (Step 2)</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre           | group156@u3adacorum.org | Every Friday<br>14:00 - 16:00                            |
| <b>188 Japanese</b><br>Various Locations                            | group188@u3adacorum.org | Temporarily<br>Suspended                                 |
| <b>026 Jazz Appreciation</b><br>St Francis Hall, Boxmoor            | group026@u3adacorum.org | Thu 4 weekly<br>10:00 - 12:15                            |

|                                                                 |                          |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>175 Knit and Natter</b><br>Tile Kiln Lane Leverstock Green   | Group175@u3adacorum.org  | Wed 2 Weekly<br>14:00 - 16:00                            |
| <b>076 Latin Beginners</b><br>Various Locations BK              | group076@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br>14:15 - 15:45 |
| <b>076 Latin Intermediate</b><br>Various Locations BK           | group076@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed<br>14:15 - 15:45 |
| <b>027 literature A BK</b><br>Meadway                           | group027@u3adacorum.org  | Tue 2 - weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                          |
| <b>028 Literature B</b><br>Various Locations Berkhamsted        | Group1028@u3adacorum.org | Mon 3 - weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                          |
| <b>031 Local History</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall          | group031@u3adacorum.org  | 4 <sup>th</sup> or last Tues<br>14:00 - 16:00            |
| <b>157 Lunch Club A</b><br>Various Locations                    | group0157@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday<br>Ring for Times                |
| <b>203 Lunch Club B</b><br>Various Locations                    | group203@u3adacorum.org  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday<br>Ring for Times                |
| <b>215 Magic Introduction</b><br>Leverstock Green Village Hall  | group215@u3adacorum.org  | Fri 2 - Weekly<br>14:00 - 16:00                          |
| <b>060 MahJong</b><br>St Pauls Church Parish Room               | group060@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed<br>10:00 - 12:00   |
| <b>361 Maths</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall                  | group361@u3adacorum.org  | Third Monday<br>14:00 - 16:00                            |
| <b>065 Military History</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall       | group065@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday<br>10:00 - 12:00               |
| <b>025 Money Matters</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall          | group025@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday<br>10:00 - 12:00                  |
| <b>035 Music Apprec (Classical)</b><br>St Francis Hall, Boxmoor | group035@u3adacorum.org  | Thu 2 weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                            |
| <b>089 Musical Miscellany</b><br>St Francis Hall, Boxmoor       | group089@u3adacorum.org  | Thu 4 weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                            |
| <b>037 Nature Study</b><br>Various Locations outdoors           | group037@u3adacorum.org  | Every Tuesday<br>10:00 - 13:30                           |
| <b>038 Needlework</b><br>Brackenhurst Lodge<br>Ivy House Lane   | group038@u3adacorum.org  | Tue 2 weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                            |
| <b>362 News Group</b><br>Berkhamsted Football Club              | group362@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays<br>10:00 - 12:00                |

|                                                                                     |                          |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>067 Opera – Introduction</b><br>Rider Close Bovingdon                            | group067@u3adacorum.org  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday<br>14:00 - 16:00                    |
| <b>075 Out with Friends</b><br>St Johns Church Full Hall                            | group075@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday<br>10:00 - 12:00                    |
| <b>036 Painting for Pleasure</b><br>Northchurch Social Centre,<br>Outside in Summer | group036@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday<br>10:00 - 12:00                  |
| <b>040 Patchwork</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre                                  | group040@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br>13:00 - 15:00     |
| <b>045 Pencil Drawing</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre                             | group045@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday<br>10:00 - 12:00                 |
| <b>061 Philosophy</b><br>Quaker Meeting House, HH                                   | group061@u3adacorum.org  | Tue 2 weekly<br>14:30 - 16:30                              |
| <b>151 Photography Club</b><br>St Johns Church Large Hall                           | group151@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday<br>14:00 - 16:00                 |
| <b>041 Play Reading A</b><br>Smoke House, Middle Road BK                            | group041@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday<br>10:00 - 12:30                   |
| <b>042 Play Reading B Bk</b><br>Various Homes,<br>Zoom Personal Account             | group042@u3adacorum.org  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday<br>10:00 - 12:00                 |
| <b>071 Poetry Appreciation</b><br>George St, Hemel Hempstead                        | group071@u3adacorum.org  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday<br>14:15 - 16:15                 |
| <b>088 Poetry Writing</b><br>Gravel Lane, Boxmoor                                   | group088@u3adacorum.org  | Mon 3 weekly<br>14:00 - 16:00                              |
| <b>167 Railways</b><br>Summer Rail Visits, otherwise<br>St Pauls Church Hall        | group167@u3adacorum.org  | Last Thursday,<br>(not Dec)<br>10:00 - 12:00               |
| <b>182 Reading BK</b><br>Cedar Road Berkhamsted                                     | group182@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday<br>10:00 - 12:30                    |
| <b>213 Rug Makers</b><br>St Pauls Church Parish Room                                | group213@u3adacorum.org  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday<br>14:00 - 16:00                   |
| <b>084 Russian</b><br>Briar Way BK                                                  | group084@u3adacorum.org  | Every Thursday<br>10:00 - 12:00                            |
| <b>165 Science and Technology</b><br>St Johns Church Full Hall                      | group165@u3adacorum.org  | Last<br>Wednesday<br>14:15 - 16:00                         |
| <b>185 Sewing Bee</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre                                 | group0185@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday<br>10:00 - 12:00 |

|                                                                 |                         |                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>187 Spanish Lang and Cult</b><br>Potten End                  | group187@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br>14:30 - 16:30                                             |
| <b>221 Swimming (Berkhamsted)</b><br>Berkhamsted Leisure centre | group221@u3adacorum.org | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday<br>12:00 - 14:30                                                              |
| <b>217 Table tennis A</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre         | Group217@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> Weds<br>14:00 - 16:00                                              |
| <b>224 Table tennis B</b><br>Adeyfield Community Centre         | group224@u3adacorum.org | 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed<br>13:00 - 16:00                                               |
| <b>005 Tea Dance</b><br>Apsley Community Centre                 | group005@u3adacorum.org | Tues 2 weekly<br>(Not August)<br>14:00 - 16:00                                                       |
| <b>181 Ukulele</b><br>Grove Hill Community Centre               | group181@u3adacorum.org | 1 <sup>st</sup> Wed<br>09:30 - 12:00<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed<br>10:00 - 12:00                         |
| <b>220 Urban Sketchers</b><br>Various Locations                 | group220@u3adacorum.org | May - Sep 2 <sup>nd</sup> &<br>4 <sup>th</sup> Tue<br>Oct - Apr 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue<br>10:00 - 12:00 |
| <b>099 Walking</b><br>Various Locations                         | group099@u3adacorum.org | Usually 4 <sup>th</sup> Tue<br>09:30 start                                                           |
| <b>204 Wild Flower Study</b><br>Various Locations               | group204@u3adacorum.org | Wed or Thu 2<br>weekly<br>10:00 - 12:00                                                              |
| <b>078 wine appreciation</b><br>St Johns Small Hall             | group078@u3adacorum.org | First Friday<br>14:30 - 16:30                                                                        |

Boys and Girls come out to play  
The moon doth shine as bright as day  
Leave the Tele and come and meet  
All the gang in the village street  
Come with a whoop and come with a cheer  
Come with some fags and a can of beer  
Up the garage to steal a car  
Not a word to your Ma and Pa

*Diana Knapp*



## **u3a Dacorum Committee Members**

### **Trustees:**

Chair: **Carolyn Wallis**

Vice Chair: **Jane Campbell**

Treasurer: **Henry Wallis**

Secretary: **Ellen Duffy**

Groups: **Louise (Lee) Pace**

Digest Editor: **John Dodkins**

Speakers: **Louise (Lee) Pace**

Beacon: **John Dodkins**

Trustee: **John Coe**

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speakers@u3adacorum.org (email only)

beaconadmin@u3adacorum.org (email only)

Members of u3a Dacorum may contact any Committee Member with suggestions, ideas, and complaints, or for advice on matters relating to u3a activities.

### **Committee Associates:**

Membership: **Jean Sniders**

Web Admin: **Mike Sapsard**

Beacon & web: **Anne Menzies**

Hall Bookings: **Margaret Taylor**

Equipment: **Terry Thirlwell**

Group News: **Alan Osborn**

Photocopies: **Judy Baldwin**

Minutes: **Lorna Grimes**

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*On The Canal. Steve Ballard, Photography Club*



*The Railway group visited the HS2 construction site at Maple Cross and had a guided tour in a minibus. Picture: Jane Campbell*